



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6  
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

April 7, 2017

REPLY TO 6WQ-PP

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Proposed NPDES General Permit for New and Existing Sources and New Dischargers in the Offshore Subcategory of the Oil and Gas Extraction Category for the Western Portion of the Outer Continental Shelf of the Gulf of Mexico (GMG290000)

FROM: William K. Honker, P.E., Director  
Water Division (6WQ)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. Honker", written over the typed name and title.

TO: Stephanie Morris  
Office of Policy, Regulatory Management Division (1803A)

The attached notice of the Proposed Reissuance of the NPDES General Permit for Discharges from the Offshore Subcategory of the Oil and Gas Extraction Category to the Western Portion of the Outer Continental Shelf of the Gulf of Mexico (GMG290000) is submitted for publication in the Federal Register. The completed EPA Form 2340-15 for the Federal Register Typesetting Request and a CD containing the Federal Register Notice are also attached for submittal to the Federal Register.

Please notify Evelyn Rosborough at (214) 665-7515 of the Federal Register publication date.

If you should have any questions or need additional information, please contact Isaac Chen by telephone at (214) 665-7364 or by E-mail at [chen.isaac@epa.gov](mailto:chen.isaac@epa.gov).

Attachments

cc: Zobrist (4203M)

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED NPDES GENERAL PERMIT**

**Proposed NPDES General Permit for New and Existing Sources and New Dischargers in the Offshore Subcategory of the Oil and Gas Extraction Category for the Western Portion of the Outer Continental Shelf of the Gulf of Mexico (GMG290000)**

**SUMMARY:** The Water Division Director of Region 6 today proposes to reissue the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit No. GMG290000 for existing and new sources and new dischargers in the Offshore Subcategory of the Oil and Gas Extraction Point Source Category (40 CFR Part 435, Subpart A), located in and discharging to the Outer Continental Shelf offshore of Louisiana and Texas. The discharge of produced water to that portion of the Outer Continental Shelf from Offshore Subcategory facilities located in the territorial seas of Louisiana and Texas is also authorized by this permit.

This draft permit proposes to retain, with certain modifications, the limitations and conditions of the existing 2012 issued permit (2012 permit). The 2012 permit limitations conform with the Oil and Gas Offshore Subcategory Guidelines and contain additional requirements to assess impacts from the discharge of produced water to the marine environment, as required by section 403(c) of the Clean Water Act.

COMMENT: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-R06-OW-2017-0217 to the *Federal eRulemaking Portal*: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or withdrawn. EPA may publish any comment received to its public docket. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Multimedia submissions (audio, video, etc.) must be accompanied by a written comment. The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. EPA will generally not consider comments or comment contents located outside of the primary submission (*i.e.* on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system). For additional submission methods, the full EPA public comment policy, information about CBI or multimedia submissions, and general guidance on making effective comments, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>. DATES: Comments must be received by [insert date 60 days after publication date].

PUBLIC HEARING: Public meetings and hearings on the proposed permit will be held during the comment period. EPA will publish public hearing times and places in the following newspapers: Houston Chronicle and New Orleans Advocate. The meetings will include a presentation on the proposed permit followed by the opportunity for questions and answers. The public hearings will be held in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR 124.12. At the public hearing, any person may submit oral or written statements and data concerning the proposed permit. Any person who cannot attend one of the public hearings may still submit

written comments, which have the same weight as comments made at the public hearing, through the end of the public comment period.

Public meeting and hearing times and places could be found online from the *Federal eRulemaking Portal*: <http://www.regulations.gov> with Docket ID No. listed above.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Evelyn Rosborough, Region 6, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733.  
Telephone: (214) 665-7515. Email: [rosborough.evelyn@epa.gov](mailto:rosborough.evelyn@epa.gov).

A complete draft permit and a fact sheet more fully explaining the proposal may be obtained online from the *Federal eRulemaking Portal* by accessing the Docket listed above or from Ms. Rosborough. In addition, the Agency's current administrative record on the proposal is available for examination at the Region's Dallas offices during normal working hours after providing Ms. Rosborough 24 hours advance notice.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:**

Other statutory and regulatory requirements are discussed in the fact sheet that include: Oil Spill Requirement; Ocean Discharge Criteria Evaluation; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act; National Environmental Policy Act; Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act; Endangered Species Act; State Water Quality Standards and State Certification; Coastal Zone Management Act; Paperwork Reduction Act; and Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Dated April 7, 2017

  
David F. Garcia, P.E.

Deputy Director

Water Division